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TENNESSEE FORESTRY COMMISSION [DRAFT] MEETING MINUTES

9/4/2019

A meeting of the Tennessee Forestry Commission was held in the TDF Bruer Building Conference Room in Nashville, TN, September 4, 2019.

Participants:

Forestry Commission Members: Johnny Heard, Chairman; Tom Midyett, Vice Chairman; John Charles Wilson, Secretary; Alex Richman, Bob Qualman.

Forestry Commission Ex-Officio Members:

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation:

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA): Brian Chandler, Forest Management Program Leader

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA): Tom Womack, Deputy Commissioner; and Shannon Klonowski, Fiscal & Administrative Services Coordinator

Tennessee Department of Agriculture - Division of Forestry (TDF): David Arnold, State Forester; David Todd, Assistant State Forester; Heather Slayton, Assistant State Forester; Tim Phelps, Forestry Communications & Outreach Unit Leader; and Phil Morrissey, State Forest Unit Leader

Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA): Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director; Teri Frye, Conservation Education Coordinator

Chairman Johnny Heard welcomed everyone to the meeting. The roll was called at 9:05 a.m.

Handout:

- 2019-2020 Commission Contact List



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Approval of the Minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting

- David Arnold presented draft of previous minutes.
- Discussion of potential changes on how to note attendance at Commission meetings was facilitated by Tom Midyett. Recommendation was to only note who attends. Absences would not be noted.

Tom Midyett motioned to approve minutes as presented with adoption of attendance recommendation be applied to future minutes. Bob Qualman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Review of FY2021 budget

Heather Slayton presented the Division's draft budget for SFY2021. David Arnold, David Todd, and Shannon Klonowski provided supporting comments and helped answer questions.

Handout:

- Budget PowerPoint

A motion was made by Bob Qualman to accept FY2021 budget as presented. John Charles Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Program Update

- Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Chris Oswalt – USFS FIA Research Forester

Chris Oswalt presented information on projects underway within the USFS FIA Unit that will make forest inventory data more accessible to data users (links to products demonstrated are below). The Commission emphasized the need to have better estimates on land ownership changes that might impact timber availability.

DEMO Links from presentation

- 1) SRS-FIA - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/>
- 2) Bourbon Barrel Oak Finder – <https://usfs-gis-dev.esriemcs.com/BourbonOak/>
- 3) TPO One Click - <https://public.tableau.com/views/FIATPOOneClickBETA/StateSelection?%3AshowVizHome=no#5>



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- 4) National One Click - https://public.tableau.com/views/FIA_OneClick_V1_2/StateSelection?%3AshowVizHome=no
- 5) SRS-FIA Overview - <https://public.tableau.com/views/SRSFIAOverviewBETA/SRSFIA?%3AshowVizHome=no>
- 6) Digital Engagement website - <https://usfs-gis-dev.esriemcs.com/portal/apps/sites/#/demo>

Forestry Commission Vacancy Update

David Arnold discussed that candidates have been submitted for the current Forestry Commission vacancy to the Governor's office and no decision has been made on filling the vacancy.

Review of fire program investments

David Arnold provided discussion and information concerning the Division's fire program investments that will serve to enhance the Department of Agriculture's wildfire suppression efforts. Investments include equipment (dozers/transport, bambi buckets, state forest equipment), technology (fiResponse wildfire & resource management software, communications equipment), personnel training, and community hazard mitigation projects.

Handout:

- Equipment List

Program Updates continued

- Conservation Education Tim Phelps – Communications & Outreach Unit Leader
Teri Frye – TFA Conservation Education Coordinator

Tim Phelps and Teri Frye provided information on the Division's and TFA's partnership efforts and strategies to become more engaged with conservation education efforts.

Handouts:

- Conservation Education PowerPoint
- People of Forestry brochure
- Teacher Conservation Workshop outline
- Woodlot Wisdom
- 2019 Tennessee Forestry Association Annual Meeting brochure



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- State Forest timber sales Phil Morrissey, State Forest Unit Leader

Phil Morrissey provided an update on this past year's timber sales activity. Strategies were also presented to help ensure revenue targets are met for SFY2020.

Handouts:

- Timber Sale summary FY19

Information request

Forestry Commission members requested a process to be kept up to date on wildfire activity. The Division's Burnsafetn.org website provides information that can keep Commission members updated on current fire activity.

Daily fire reports can be viewed at:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/agriculture/documents/dailyfirereport.pdf>

Fire danger news is available at:

<http://burnsafetn.org/fire-dang.html>

Future Meeting Dates

- January 7, 2020 – Discuss budget, timber sales (first Tuesday in January).
- April 7, 2020 – Approve Nursery seedling pricing and appoint sub-committee to nominate Commission officers (first Tuesday in April).
- June 2, 2020 - Approve of Commission officers (first Tuesday in June).
- September 2, 2020- Approve Division budget (first Wednesday in September). *Note: Johnny Heard recommended moving the September date in those years it conflicts with Labor Day weekend. The next September meeting does not conflict with Labor Day 2020 (9/7/20).*

John Charles Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alex Richman seconded motion. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1:36PM CST.

Fire suppression equipment was set up in Museum parking lot for display and demonstration for Commission members.